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Islamic Emirate supports educational institutions, Kabir

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Kabir, the acting Minister of Refugees and Repatriation, said that the Islamic Emirate supports the advancement of academic and educational institutions, according to a statement from the ministry the other day.

Mawlavi Kabir made the remarks in a meeting with the head of Kabul's Jihadi Madrasa and a group of scholars, the statement said.

He also emphasized the importance of enhancing the academic standards of religious schools and fostering coordination among educational centers to promote effective collaboration and exchange of experiences, according to the statement.

Reaffirming the Islamic Emirate's commitment to supporting religious and educational institutions, particularly madrasas, he pledged to address scholars' suggestions within the ministry's capabilities.

According to the statement, the head of the Jihadi Madrasa expressed gratitude for the ministry's support and exchanged views aimed at improving the performance and outcomes of Jihadi schools.

The Kabul Times

Afghan, Uzbek officials talk 500 kV power transmission project via video conference

KABUL: Dr. Abdul Bari Omar, Chief Executive Officer of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, via a video conference with Jurabek Mirzamahmudov, the Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan, discussed the 500-kilovolt power transmission project to Afghanistan, the DABS said in a statement Sunday. Omar emphasized the importance of creating necessary facilities to strengthen economic relations and other forms of cooperation between the two friendly and neighboring countries, according to the statement. Meanwhile, the Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan expressed his appreciation to the leadership of DABS and considered the long-standing relationship between the two countries dependent on mutual cooperation.

He added that the new 500 kV transmission project will further strengthen these relations. It is planned that Uzbekistan will invest in this new 500-kilovolt power transmission project, through which up to 800 megawatts of electricity will be transferred to Kabul and the eastern provinces of Afghanistan. It is worth mentioning that Afghanistan currently imports its required electricity from Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Iran.

The Kabul Times

Recreational park to be constructed in Ghazni

KABUL: The Ministry of Water and Energy said in a statement the other day that construction work worth $700,000 has been initiated on a recreational park in the vicinity of the Sarda Dam in Ghazni province.

The park will be established by the Muslim Katawazi Company within five years on 10 acres of land, with plans to expand to approximately 100 acres in the future, the statement said.

Notably, the Sarda Dam is recognized as one of the largest and most significant dams in the country, both in terms of its hydrological importance and its value as a popular recreational destination. Situated in the southeastern province of Ghazni, it draws thousands of domestic tourists and local families each year who come to enjoy its serene waters, natural surroundings, and peaceful environment.

On Saturday, maintenance work on Sultan Dam was also began in Ghazni province.

The Kabul Times

ARCS, IFRC hold talks on returnees, flood-affected families

KABUL: Shaikh Shahabuddin Delawar, acting President of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, met with Sami Al-Fakhoury, Head of Delegation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for Afghanistan, discussing improving the situation of Afghan returnees and addressing their urgent needs, ARCS said in a statement Sunday.

Delawar provided an overview of the humanitarian services ARCS is currently offering to returnee families and highlighted the increasing number of families returning from neighboring countries.

He emphasized that the scale of need is vast and requires broad international support, especially from humanitarian organizations.

Delawar also briefed the IFRC officials on the recent floods that have severely impacted several provinces across Afghanistan, sharing details of the damages and immediate requirements. Calling on the international federation to prepare and dispatch emergency assistance to affected families, Delawar assured that the Afghan Red Crescent remains committed to ensuring that all international aid is delivered transparently to the most vulnerable, displaced, and orphaned families. Meanwhile, Sami Al-Fakhoury said that IFRC will work closely with ARCS to provide clean drinking water, food supplies, and long-term assistance for returnees. He also expressed his condolences to families impacted by the floods and reiterated the IFRC's commitment to fulfilling its promises to support both returnees and disaster-affected households in Afghanistan. **The Kabul Times**

Iran deports 300,000 Afghan migrants in 12 days

HERAT: The Islamic Republic of Iran has forcibly deported 300,000 Afghan migrants through the Islam Qala border crossing in just 12 days, the Information and Culture Department of Herat said in a statement the other day.

The migrants entered the country from Iran through the Islam Qala port, the statement said, adding that they have been provided essential services like cash aid distribution, provision of food, water, healthcare, and transportation.

It should be noted that over the past four years, tens of thousands of Afghan nationals have been forcibly deported by neighboring countries, particularly Iran and Pakistan, under various pretexts such as lack of documentation or security concerns.

The Kabul Times

Four water supply projects inaugurated in Kandahar

KABUL: Four water supply networks worth 564 million Afghanis (some $8 million) have been inaugurated in the country's southern provinces of Kandahar, the state-run Bakhter News Agency reported the other day.

With the inauguration of the water supply networks, 90,000 people have been provided with safe drinking water in Kandahar city, the agency said. According to the agency, the projects include Loy Wiala Water Supply network, Arghandab to Ada transmission pipeline, Guzar Adalat water distribution network and pipe replacement project in Najib Namro Area of the city.

The projects have jointly been funded and supported by the Emirati Urban Water and Sewerage Company, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the agency added. **The Kabul Times**

Work resumed on 30-bed hospital in Paktia

GARDIZ: The Public Health Department of Paktia said in a statement that construction work worth 50 million Afghanis has been resumed on a 30-bed hospital after a six-year pause in the province.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by Shaikh Abdul Wali Haqqani, Deputy Minister of Public Health, who emphasized the ministry's ongoing efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality and expand access to quality healthcare services across the country, according to the statement.

He stated that the ministry remains committed to building new hospitals in remote and underserved areas of the country.Deputy Minister Haqqani assured that once completed, the hospital will play a vital role in addressing the healthcare needs of the province, especially in diagnostics, treatment, and access to essential services.

Meanwhile, Dr. Miraj Gul Adil, Head of Public Health in Paktia, said that the construction initially began in 2018 with a budget of 79 million Afghanis, but was left incomplete due to various challenges.

He said that once finished, the hospital is expected to become a key healthcare center for the province, offering essential and specialized services to thousands of residents who previously faced difficulty accessing quality care.

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International-Daily
WWW.TheKabulTimes.com
Uzair Baryalay, Director of Govt. Dailies
Email: Atvaishan@gmail.com
Editor-in-Chief, Nik Mohammad Nikmal
Email: Nikmal@TheKabulTimes.com
Mob: (+93)700 208 103
Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Fathulbari Akhgar
Mob: (+93)748 076 223
Distribution: 0202312509-(+93)766044966)
Graphic designers: Baktash, Habibullah Aiman
Translators: Abdul Baqi Haqyar, Noor Ahmad and Hamid Jhwok
Cartoonist: Sayed Hassan Samedi
Address: 8th PD, Olympic Square, East of Chaman-e-Huzori, Kabul, Afghanistan

Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Afghan returnees need immediate and coordinated humanitarian support

In recent weeks, Afghanistan has seen a significant surge in the number of returnees, particularly from neighboring countries such as Iran and Pakistan. This growing influx demands urgent and coordinated humanitarian support from national traders, philanthropists, and international aid organizations to address the pressing needs of those returning home, often with nothing but hope.

Particularly, the recent wave of Afghan returnees arriving from Iran has triggered a humanitarian alarm that can no longer be ignored. Thousands of men, women, and children, many of whom were forced to leave behind all their possessions, are now stranded at the Islam Qala ground port in Herat province. With no shelter, food, medical care, or water, they are living under the scorching sun.

Following the surge in the deportation of Afghan migrants from Iran, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, together with relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation and the Ministry of Economy, has taken commendable steps, including forming task forces and engaging with international NGOs.

However, the scale of the challenge surpasses the capacity of local institutions alone. International organizations, particularly UN agencies and humanitarian partners, must intensify their support efforts to ensure that aid reaches the most vulnerable populations without unnecessary bureaucratic delays.

More than aid, long-term reintegration solutions are critical. Returnees need access to land, vocational training, job creation programs, and inclusion in community development projects. Social cohesion and dignity of the returnees must be restored, allowing them to rebuild their lives and contribute meaningfully to the nation's future.

The time for action is now. Ignoring the plight of returnees not only jeopardizes individual lives but also undermines national stability.

Therefore, addressing the returnees' challenges demands urgent and coordinated action. National traders and wealthy individuals can play a vital role by providing food, tents, water, and medical support. As Islamic values emphasize helping the needy, especially those returning to their homeland in hardship. This is a moral and social obligation.

At the same time, international aid agencies must step up their efforts. UN bodies and humanitarian NGOs must not treat this as a temporary border situation, it is a long-term reintegration challenge. Immediate emergency aid must be followed by structured support such as shelter, livelihoods, documentation, education, and psychosocial assistance.

Building on previous efforts, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) must intensify its commitment to ensuring that returnees across the country receive the essential services and facilities they urgently need. Strengthening infrastructure, streamlining support mechanisms, and coordinating with aid agencies will be vital in addressing their immediate and long-term challenges.

Ultimately, this moment is a test of national solidarity and administrative capability. A joint, strategic, and unified response can not only alleviate suffering but also contribute to national stability, the returnees' reintegration in society, and the country's development and prosperity.

Lack of access to drinking water in Kandahar

Decades of war, climate change, droughts, poor management, and lack of infrastructure have made access to clean drinking water increasingly difficult for people in Afghanistan.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that the drought, initially affecting northern, northwestern, and eastern regions, has now spread across the entire country.

In a statement, the organization said that Afghans affected by the drought are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, around 2.2 million hectares of irrigated land and 1.1 million hectares of rain-fed land require water for cultivation.

However, due to persistent droughts caused by climate change, not only has access to irrigation water become difficult, but access to clean drinking water has also been severely limited.

In southern Afghanistan, residents of Kandahar province say that water levels continue to drop daily, and in many areas, people have no access to drinking water at all.

Mohammad Akram, a resident of District 9 of Kandahar city, says that due to the lack of water, people walk for hours on foot just to find water for drinking.

He explains that previously, water could be found at a depth of 50 meters in his area, but now that level has dropped to 120 meters.

People in the region are deeply concerned about water shortages and fear that in coming years, water levels may decline even further.

He says, "We used to have a 50-meter-deep well at home, but it dried up.

Then we drilled another well 120 meters deep, and it dried up after just one year.

We couldn't afford to drill again, so now we bring water from another location, which costs us a lot."

Hayatullah, a resident of District 11 of Kandahar, says that in most parts of the city, the water table has dropped to more than 100 meters this year, while last year it was around 70 meters.

He warns that if the issue of water scarcity is not addressed, the situation will worsen in the coming years.

He says, "We don't have a well at home, nor piped water. In the past, we had a nearby well and used water from it, but it dried up too.

Now we buy water from tankers, which costs us 500 to 600 Afghanis per trip."

Sayed Anwar, a resident of District 10 of Kandahar city, says he cannot afford to buy

water.

The wells around his house have dried up, and his children now walk about one kilometer daily to fetch water from a mosque well.

He says the children carry water in plastic jugs, which often causes them to suffer from arm pain.

He adds, "We have no water at home. Our children walk for hours and only manage to fetch just enough water for drinking.

Their bodies are suffering from the burden of carrying water." At the same time, international and national agencies confirm that climate change—especially drought and water scarcity—has caused displacement in some areas.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in its latest report, published on June 16, said that in the first three months of 2025, nearly five million people—about 10% of Afghanistan's population—were affected by environmental hazards.

The IOM's report, titled "Afghanistan Climate Hazards Assessment," says that 79% of internal displacements in Afghanistan were caused by these hazards.

The report states that since the beginning of the year, nearly 396,000 people have been forced to leave their homes due to natural disasters, of whom around 172,000 migrated to other countries.

The source adds that in the first quarter of 2025, 44% of Afghans had limited access to clean drinking water, and over 80% of communities lacked essential water infrastructure, which worsened the effects of droughts, floods, and heavy rains.

Earlier, on February 28, the IOM had reported that nine million Afghans were affected by climate change in the past year alone, with 500,000 displaced due to drought and floods.

Additionally, on March 22—World Water Day—the International Committee of the Red Cross reported that 33 million people in Afghanistan, about 80% of the population, lack access to clean water, making it nearly impossible for them to secure water for drinking, cooking, farming, and other essential needs.

Engineer Niaz Mohammad, deputy head of the Kandahar city Water Supply Department, says that currently, only about 16,000 households in 11 districts of the city receive clean water.

According to him, Kandahar has a total of 15 urban districts.

Although piped water systems have been established in many areas of the 11 districts and some people have dug private wells, complaints about water shortages persist across the city.

Engineer Niaz Mohammad attributes the drastic decline in underground water levels mainly to unregulated and unauthorized well-drilling by residents and has called on people to stop digging unauthorized wells.

He says, "Although the government has banned illegal well-drilling, some people still do it. People must cooperate with the government and stop this practice."

According to him, well-drilling is now only allowed in areas with critical need, and not everyone is permitted to drill a well on their own.

Without giving specific figures, he said that since last year, the water table in Kandahar city has dropped by around 30 meters.

These concerns are being raised at a time when officials from the country's environmental protection agency said at the beginning of last year that due to climate change, around 21 million Afghans are facing a shortage of clean drinking water.

Ehsanullah Wolasmal

The Chinese modernization in my eyes

Part IX

In pursuit of a shared future — Afghanistan's aspirations for SCO inclusion

As the 2025 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Forums concluded in the vibrant Chinese city of Shenyang, the message was clear: regional unity, cultural diplomacy, and people-centered development are at the heart of the SCO's next chapter.

For Afghanistan, observing these developments brings both hope and reflection.

While the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) continues to seek broader international recognition, the evolving nature of the SCO offers a promising regional doorway—one that China may hold the key to unlocking.

Shenyang's forums, which brought together over 300 delegates from more than 20 countries, were themed "Deepening People-to-People Friendship, Advancing Sustainable Development."

They were co-hosted by the SCO's Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Commission (GNFCC), the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), and the Liaoning Provincial Government.

These weren't merely diplomatic events—they were a declaration that future cooperation in Eurasia will be driven by connectivity at all levels: cities, communities, and individuals.

China's leadership at the forum was emblematic of its broader modernization model: cooperative, people-focused, and future-oriented.

Hao Peng, Secretary of the CPC Liaoning Provincial Committee, hailed the forums as a direct result of President Xi Jinping's strategic vision for a "community with a shared future."

Shen Yueyue, Vice Chairperson of China's top political advisory body, echoed these sentiments, emphasizing that "openness and inclusiveness" must be the principles guiding regional relations.

The core of this vision—the "Shanghai Spirit"—prioritizes mutual trust, equality, consultation, and cultural diversity. This "Shanghai Spirit" resonates deeply with Afghan society. Afghanistan, long known as the heart of Asia, has historically served as a cultural and commercial bridge between civilizations.

The SCO's model, which promotes non-interference, mutual benefit, and regional development, aligns naturally with the IEA's call for diplomatic normalization and regional engagement.

One of the most important developments for Afghanistan in 2025 came days before the Shenyang forums: Russia officially acknowledged the IEA as the governing reality in Afghanistan.

This move sparked speculation and hope that China—arguably the most influential member of the SCO—might consider taking similar steps.

Although China has maintained working-level ties with Kabul and hosted IEA delegations in the past, formal recognition remains pending.

Yet China's central role in the SCO and its emphasis on regional stability suggest that its decision could have far-reaching implications, not only for Afghanistan's international legitimacy but also for its integration into multilateral platforms like the SCO.

If China were to follow Russia's lead, it could accelerate Afghanistan's entry as either a dialogue partner or observer within the SCO.

Given Afghanistan's strategic location, cultural affinity with Central Asia, and economic potential, many see its inclusion as not only natural but necessary for a truly connected Eurasia.

SCO Secretary-General Nurlan Yermekbayev's remarks at the forum reinforced that people-to-people diplomacy is now central to the organization's identity.

He highlighted cultural initiatives, youth exchanges, and city partnerships as core strategies for long-term peace and cooperation.

Afghanistan, a country with a rich cultural tapestry, vibrant youth population, and ancient cities like Herat, Kandahar, and Kabul, stands ready to contribute meaningfully to such efforts—if given the opportunity. The Shenyang forums produced two key documents—the 2025 Shenyang Initiative and the Consensus on Actions for Sustainable Development of People-to-People Exchanges among SCO Countries.

These outlined new areas for cooperation in health, education, urban management, and cultural heritage. For a post-war Afghanistan focused on reconstruction, these themes are not abstract—they are essential.

One of the most striking elements of the forums was the active participation of provincial Chinese leaders. Wang Xinwei, Governor of Liaoning, played a major role in the proceedings.

This "provincial diplomacy" model could be a game-changer for Afghanistan, where provinces like Balkh, Nangarhar, and Bamiyan hold untapped cultural and economic potential.

The signing of new friendship city agreements between SCO cities also emphasized the importance of subnational engagement.

Afghanistan could pursue similar partnerships, allowing cities like Mazar-e-Sharif and Ghazni to connect with their counterparts in Central Asia and China—initiating student exchanges, tourism projects, and municipal cooperation without waiting for top-level diplomacy to catch up.

With China set to host the 2025 SCO Summit in Tianjin, the momentum behind people-centered cooperation is growing. For the IEA, participation in such platforms offers a rare opportunity to reframe Afghanistan's international image—from a country of conflict to a country of culture and cooperation.

As a young Afghan witnessing the rise of Chinese modernization, I see a parallel path for Afghanistan—one that emphasizes respect for sovereignty, cultural revival, and development through diplomacy.

Chinese modernization isn't only about bullet trains and skyscrapers.

It's about stable governance, long-term vision, and regional integration. Afghanistan must not remain isolated from this shared journey.

Continuo…

Nik Mohammad Nikmal

Investing in power generation projects reduces Afghanistan's reliance on imported electricity

Investment in domestic power generation projects is a vital step toward reducing Afghanistan's dependence on imported electricity. With the country currently relying heavily on neighboring states for energy supply, developing local energy infrastructure not only enhances self-sufficiency but also strengthens national security and economic resilience.

Due to the steadily increasing demand for electricity across Afghanistan — driven by population growth, urban expansion, and greater industrial and commercial activity — the country has been intensifying efforts to ensure a stable and reliable power supply. One of the key strategies to address this growing demand has been the import of electricity from neighboring countries, particularly those in Central Asia with surplus energy resources.

In a recent development, senior officials from Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), the national power utility company, held a virtual meeting with the Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the advancement of the long-anticipated 500-kilovolt (kV) power transmission project. This high-capacity transmission line is expected to play a vital role in significantly enhancing the volume and stability of electricity imports from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan.

According to a statement from the DABS, Uzbekistan will invest in this new 500-kilovolt power transmission project, through which up to 800 megawatts of electricity will be transferred to Kabul and the eastern provinces of Afghanistan.

Therefore, to reduce and ultimately eliminate dependence on imported electricity, the only sustainable and strategic solution is to invest heavily in domestic power generation projects within the country. Afghanistan possesses significant untapped potential in various renewable and traditional energy sources — including solar, wind, hydroelectric, and thermal energy.

By harnessing these resources through well-planned infrastructure and investment, the country cannot only meet its current energy demands but also pave the way for long-term energy self-sufficiency.

On the one hand, investing in domestic power generation would bring multiple benefits. It would ensure a reliable and stable power supply across urban and rural areas, reduce vulnerability to political and market fluctuations in

neighboring countries, and minimize the financial burden of costly electricity imports.

On the other hand, investing in domestic power generation would create jobs, stimulate economic growth, attract foreign investment, and improve the quality of life for millions of Afghans by powering hospitals, schools, factories, and homes.

Therefore, to achieve this goal, the government, private sector, and international development partners must work together to implement large-scale energy projects, such as hydro dams, solar farms, and wind power installations. Supportive policies, streamlined regulations, and incentives for investors are also essential to accelerate progress. In the long run, energy independence through local power generation is not just an economic necessity—it is a vital step toward national development and sovereignty.

Nesar Tariq

Why do civilizations collapse? Causes, history and analysis of collapse

Civilizations, like humans, arise, thrive, and then decline. It seems like a natural process, but if it is analyzed in depth, it gets clear that the collapse of civilizations is not accidental, but rather the result of intellectual, moral, economic, and political deviations.

Every civilization reaching its peak has been because of its power, knowledge, ethics, and order, but when these elements have lost their original direction, it has collapsed from within.

If we look at the collapse of the great civilizations of the past history, we figure out a recurring pattern, meaning that civilizations start to fall from within before they collapse from the body.

The first factor of the collapse of civilizations is intellectual deviation.

When a civilization loses the balance between revelation, wisdom, and nature or relies on absolute wisdom and turns away from revelation or turns to absolute imitation and blocks reason or wisdom, then intellectual decline begins. The civilizations of Rome and Persia fell in this way.

They had everything as material strength, military power, and better order, but they were poor in terms of spirit, imagination, and truth.

After the rise of Islamic civilization, this intellectual disintegration, due to the wrong importation of philosophy, and neglect of the spirit of science, led to scientific stagnation, and with this, it started to decline.

When knowledge is separated from practice, or becomes rigid in the hands of unwise people, civilization faces intellectual dearth, and fails to continue thriving.

Moral decline is considered the second fundamental factor in the collapse of civilization.

Once it is deprived of morality, no matter how advanced, organized, and powerful it is – it will collapse as moral decline destroys deep human trust, obedience, and loyalty, and the seeds of decline are sown behind the apparent system.

Civilizations disappear from the hearts of people when moral standards are separated from politics, economics, and law, meaning that Sharia is not the basis of action, and human dignity is not reflected in the actions of rulers and leaders anymore.

The spread of lies, the facilitation of betrayal, the spread of injustice, the dominance of economic monopolies, the freedom of prostitution, and imposing despotism poison can poison every civilization, and destroy the social cohesion that is the soul of civilizational progress.

The civilization of Carthage collapsed due to lies, deceit, and exploitation despite the fact that it had economic power.

The golden civilization of Andalusia fell into the abyss of decline due to moral infidelity, internal prejudice, and the lust of corrupt rulers.

Also, the last stages of the Abbasid Caliphate were filled with a similar moral crisis, in which zakat was abolished as an important duty, wine became the adornment of palaces, and justice became the court's pleasure.

All these examples prove that moral weakness not only separates the individual from religion, but also destroys the entire system of piety, mercy, justice, and trust.

When the hearts of the community are freed from the fear of Almighty Allah, and the desires of the soul become the source of law instead of the Sharia, then civilization has a hidden stench in the guise of beauty. Such a civilization, no matter how high it is built, and equipped with knowledge, power, and economy, is buried and dead from within because it devoids of the spirit of morality, The most important message of the Prophet's life was that morality is the soul of the nation's life.

The Messenger of Allah did not say that he came for politics, power, or economics, but rather, he would say:

"I have been appointed as prophet of Allah for the completion and perfection of moral ethics," meaning that the foundation of the civilizational mission is the revival of morals. So if this soul dies, no matter how strong the body is, it cannot move, because honor cannot not earned through lies, loyalty cannot be built through betrayal, and social trust cannot arise from oppression, tyranny, and injustice.

It is the moral that gives legitimacy to the system, trust in the leadership, and a sense of unity to the nation.

If these pillars collapse, civilization remains a physical structure - the human spirit and leadership are destroyed in it, and this way, it starts to collapse and history has recorded it again and again.

Economic disorder and class injustice are one of the deepest and most silent causes of the decline of civilizations, as civilization is not just a collection of bricks and buildings, but a system based on human relationships, distribution, rights, and justice.

When the balance of wealth, service, and consumption is destroyed, social stability starts to decline too.

When the distribution of economic resources is not fair - wealth is in the hands of only one class or group, and society is characterized by an endless gap between the rich and the poor, a natural atmosphere of hatred, class envy, and rebellion is created, as the economy is the basis of human dignity, need, and autonomy, and any kind of injustice directly harms human dignity.

When the zakat system, which is originally a divine means of social balance, is stopped, and when the treasury becomes the personal treasury of the ruler instead of the nation, which is spent on the palaces instead of the poverty of the people, and when endowments are usurped and converted into private property, such practices deprive civilization of economic justice.

Moreover, when hoarding becomes widespread, prices are controlled not against poverty but on the basis of interest, and work is done only for the accumulation of wealth, not for honor, production, or service, then the economy is deprived of its spiritual dimension, and is reduced to a mere commercial market in which there is no sympathy, no morality, no justice.

This situation not only separates people from each other, but also weakens the social accord.

It also widens the gap between ruler and the people, and this way provide ground for rebellion, coup, or overthrow.

The last century of the Abbasid Caliphate was a good example of such crisis.

The state focused solely on military expenditures, the wealth of the corrupt courtiers, and the pleasures of the elite, while the ordinary people were

struggling with poverty, famine, and injustice.

Also, in the late Ottoman Caliphate, economic weakness, the burden of colonial debts, the monopoly of the elite, and the decline of the waqf system brought civilizational strength to the ground.

It should also be said here that poverty is not only an economic condition, but also a symptom of the loss of human potential, the abandonment of religious responsibility, and the death of the will to civilization.

When the nation is deprived of the wealth of the rich and the poor are deprived of the spirituality of hope, civilization loses the vein on which it lives.

The Islamic economy, which is based on zakat, waqf, tribute, justice, lawful business, trust, and public benefits, is not only a financial system, but also base for a social civilization, and if this base is destroyed, then civilization will perish from within, even though it may have nice palaces and treasures.

Political instability, the disappearance of consultation, and the rule of tyrants also play a fundamental role in the process of decline of a civilization.

When leaders stops to fear from Almighty Allah, oppose what scholars say, and become the enemies of the truth, the people will deprive of justice, order, and hope. Such a system, even if strong on the surface, is broken from within.

See P4

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SPORTS

Four-province O-Sport martial arts tournament held in Nangarhar

A one-day O-Sport martial arts tournament was successfully organized in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, bringing together athletes from four different provinces of Afghanistan.

The event was hosted by the Nangarhar Directorate of Physical Education and Sports in collaboration with the Martial Arts Federation.

A total of 52 athletes from Kabul, Nangarhar, Kunar, and Kapisa provinces participated in the tournament.

Competitors took part in various age categories, including youth and adult divisions, showcasing their skills and dedication in the growing discipline of O-Sport.

The competition was fierce and exciting, with each team demonstrating strong performances.

By the end of the tournament, Nangarhar emerged as the overall champion, securing first place with 10 victories.

Kabul province followed closely in second place with 8 wins, while Kunar secured third place with 6 victories.

Although Kapisa's athletes did not reach the top three rankings, their participation contributed to the competitive and friendly spirit of the event.

Organizers stated that the purpose of this tournament was not only to identify top talents in O-Sport martial arts but also to encourage youth participation in sports and promote unity and camaraderie among athletes from different regions of the country.

The event drew a good crowd and highlighted the growing interest in martial arts across Afghanistan.

It also provided a platform for young athletes to gain experience in competitive settings and build connections with fellow sportsmen from other provinces.

Officials from the Nangarhar Sports Directorate praised the participants for their discipline and skill, and expressed hopes to hold similar inter-provincial tournaments in the future to further develop the sporting culture in Afghanistan.

The Kabul Times

Paris Saint-Germain set to face Real Madrid after thrilling win over Bayern

In a highly anticipated clash in the quarterfinals of the FIFA Club World Cup, Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) overcame Bayern Munich in an exciting match to book their place in the semifinals, where they will face Real Madrid on July 9.

The match between two European giants lived up to its expectations, offering fans a thrilling contest filled with pace, intensity, and quality football.

PSG showed greater composure and clinical finishing to secure the victory, thanks to goals from Desire and Ousmane Dembélé, who both found the back of the net in style.

Bayern Munich, despite several attacking attempts and maintaining possession for large spells, failed to convert their chances.

PSG's defense held firm, and their counter-attacking strategy proved decisive.

With this win, PSG continue their strong run in the tournament and now look ahead to a much-anticipated semifinal showdown against Spanish powerhouse Real Madrid.

The two teams will battle it out on July 9, in what promises to be a classic encounter between two of the world's most talented squads.

For PSG, this victory is a major statement of intent as they chase their first Club World Cup title.

The combination of young stars and experienced players is proving effective for the French champions, and fans are eager to see how they perform against a seasoned side like Real Madrid in the next stage.

The Kabul Times

Afghan star Noor Ahmad shines as Texas Super Kings top MLC table

In a thrilling 28th match of the Major League Cricket season, Afghan sensation Noor Ahmad played a vital role in helping the Texas Super Kings claim their seventh victory, defeating the Seattle Orcas and climbing to the top of the points table with 14 points.

The clash featured two Afghan talents on opposite sides — Noor Ahmad representing Texas and Waqar Salamkhil playing for Seattle. Noor once again proved why he is considered one of the rising stars in international cricket. His smart, sharp spin bowling earned him two crucial wickets, applying pressure in the middle overs and disrupting Seattle's momentum.

While South African star Faf du Plessis anchored Texas's innings with a fluent 91 runs, and England's Adam Milne tore through Seattle's batting lineup with a stunning five-wicket haul, it was Noor's economical and timely breakthroughs that kept the Super Kings in control.

Seattle Orcas struggled to form solid partnerships and couldn't recover from the regular fall of wickets. Noor's consistency with the ball has been a backbone of Texas's bowling strategy throughout the tournament.

With this important win, the Texas Super Kings now lead the standings, and their balanced squad — blending youth like Noor Ahmad with experienced campaigners — looks well-poised to challenge for the championship.

The Kabul Times

Nangarhar floods claim four lives, destroy hundreds of houses

JALALABAD: The Disaster Management Department of Nangarhar said in a statement on Sunday that flash floods claimed the lives of four children and destroyed hundreds of residential units in the province. Heavy rainfall and subsequent flash floods caused severe destruction across Shinwar, Lalpur, Goshta, Sherzad, and Bati Kot districts of the province. Additionally, nearly 300 residential homes and more than 5,000 acres of agricultural land were destroyed, and dozens of key public infrastructures were severely damaged. The figures are preliminary and may change as assessments continue, the statement said. The Afghanistan Meteorological Department has warned of further rainfall and possible flooding in the eastern provinces, including Nangarhar, in the coming days, calling for increased preparedness and swift support to mitigate further losses. **The Kabul Times**

Russian forces gain control of two settlements in Ukraine, Russian military says

Russia said Sunday it had captured another two settlements in east Ukraine, one in the Donetsk region and one in the Kharkiv region.

Ukraine did not immediately comment on Russia's claims.

Moscow has been grinding forward on the front line for over a year, pressing its advantage against overstretched and outmanned Ukrainian troops.

On Sunday, Russia said it had captured the village of Piddubne in Donetsk and Sobolivka in Kharkiv.

Piddubne was home to around 500 people before the conflict and lies just seven kilometers (four miles) from the border of Ukraine's central Dnipropetrovsk region.

The Sobolivka village lies some three kilometers (two miles) west of the town of Kupiansk, outside of areas Russia claims it is holding, according to battlefield maps by the US-based Institute for the Study of War (ISW).

In two separate Telegram posts, the Russian defense ministry said its army units had "liberated" the settlements of Poddubnoye and Sobolevka, using Russian spellings for the localities.

The Russian military accelerated its advances for a third consecutive month in June.

Its territorial gains for that month were the biggest since November last year, according to an AFP analysis of ISW data.

Al-Arabiya

Search for missing continues as Texas floods kill 51, including 15 children

Hundreds of rescuers have been deployed to search for people missing in central Texas, after flash floods killed 51 people, including 15 children.

The worst affected area is Kerr County where 43 people have died and where 27 children remain missing from a Christian youth camp located along the River Guadalupe.

"The work continues, and will continue, until everyone is found," promised Larry Leitha, the sheriff of Kerr County.

People have also been confirmed dead in other parts of the state, including Travis County and Tom Green County.

Multiple flash flood warnings remain in place over the weekend in central Texas.

About 850 people have been rescued so far.

At a news conference on Saturday afternoon, Texas Governor Greg Abbott said he had signed an expanded disaster declaration to boost search efforts. He said officials would be relentless in ensuring they locate "every single person who's been a victim of this event", adding that "we will stop when the job is completed".

It remains a search and rescue mission, officials said, not a recovery effort.

They said rescuers were going up and down the Guadalupe River to try to find people who may have been swept away by the floods. US President Donald Trump said his administration was working closely with local authorities to respond to the emergency.

Forecasters have warned that central Texas may see more flooding this weekend.

The National Weather Service (NWS) said the area could see 2 to 5in (5cm to 12cm) of rain on Saturday.

Up to 10in of rain was possible in some areas badly affected by Friday's deluge.

Much of the rescue has focused on a large all-girls' Christian summer camp called Camp Mystic, located along the banks of the Guadalupe River.

Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick told the BBC's Radio 4 PM programme many of 27 missing girls were "under the age of 12".

Pictures from the camp show it in disarray, with blankets, mattresses, teddy bears and other belongings caked in mud.

Many were asleep when the river rose more than 26ft (8m) in less than an hour in the early hours of Friday.

In an email to parents of the roughly 750 campers, Camp Mystic said that if they had not been contacted directly, their child had been accounted for. **BBC**

Why do civilizations collapse? Causes, history and...

From P3

The politics of civilization must be based on the legitimate will of the nation, not on hereditary power, colonial influence, or personal ambition. The difference between the Imams and the earlier Caliphates of Islam was that the leadership of the nation was linked to the pain, piety, and knowledge of the nation, not to race, tribe, or wealth. Another important factor for the collapse of a civilizations is that the intellectual or physical influence of enemies are always ignored. When civilizations lose their cultural identity, or become victims of imitation of another civilization, they lose their spirit and self-confidence. This is an instructive example of Andalusia – as its intellectual defeat paved ground for the political defeat, and this way its civilization collapsed. The Mongol invasion was not the result of the Abbasid decline, but rather the result of the moral, scientific, and military weakness with which the capital of the Caliphate, Baghdad, was emptied from within.

To summarize, civilizations do not collapse from the beyond borders but collapsed from within due to lack of values, thought, morality, and order. A civilization if deprived of the guidance of Almighty Allah, the depth of knowledge, the system of justice, and the spirit of morality, if it is even look good, is not alive. The history of nations teaches this lesson over and over again: civilization is the fruit of piety, wisdom, honor, and sacrifice; but its decline is the result of negligence, pride, oppression, and obedience to the self.

Mohammad Qasim Azzam